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Whitstable  
Urban District Council.



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
AND THE  
SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1925.





Whitstable Urban District Council.



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

*Medical Officer of Health,*

1925.



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Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
Whitstable.

14th May. 1926.

The the Chairman and Members of the

WHITSTABLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Sixteenth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Whitstable.

The area of the urban district is 739 acres, but water is supplied to a large surrounding district by the Council, who also receive and treat sewage from two outlying areas. The population as given by the census of 1921 was 9,812, which was subsequently adjusted to 9,140. The estimated population for 1925 is 9,710, an increase of 10 on the previous year, which estimate is totally inadequate, in view of the fact that 126 new houses have been built in 1925 and 141 in 1924, some of the latter not being occupied until last year. Most of these have been occupied by families from outside the district. In addition, births during the past year have numbered 27 more than deaths. I estimate the population to be not less than 11,000.

Whitstable is a seaside town situated on the north Kent coast and is attracting each year an increasing number of permanent residents and visitors. The whole area slopes towards the sea, which is situated on the north. Building is going on very rapidly and the whole district is gradually being covered with residences. The Council have applied to the Kent County Council for an order extending its boundaries, in view of the district's rapid growth. There is a small harbour principally used by barges and small coasting steamers and two small ship building yards, but no factories of any size.

The number of inhabited houses in 1921 was 2,185, the number of separate families 2,357. The number of the former at the present time is 2,554, an increase of 369. The rateable value is £51,765 and a penny rate produces a sum of £205.



### VITAL STATISTICS.

The Birth and Death Rates for 1924 were 11.03 and 11.95 per 1000 respectively. Illegitimate birth-rate 0.51 per 1000. The figures for 1925 are as follows:—

<b>Births :</b>		Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	...	124	58	66
Illegitimate	...	9	3	6
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...	133	61	72
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

This gives a Birth-rate of 13.69 per 1000, an increase of 2.56 per 1000 on last year. The Illegitimate Birth-rate is 0.92 per 1000.

<b>Deaths :</b>		Total.	Males.	Females.
		116	54	62
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The Death-rate is 11.94 per 1000 population, the same as last year, and compares with 12.2 for England and Wales.

Number of women dying	From Sepsis	...	...	1
as a consequence of				
childbirth.	Other Causes	...	...	1

**Infantile Mortality.** Deaths of Infants under one year:—

Legitimate	...	...	...	5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	2
				<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	7
				<hr/>

This gives an Infantile Mortality rate of 52.63 per 1000 births, comparing with 75 per 1000 births for England and Wales.

The birth rate has increased from 11.03 in 1924 to 13.69 in 1925, a very satisfactory increase. This, I believe, is partly due to the better housing accommodation gradually becoming available.

Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.
7	3	Nil.	Nil.
15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 years and upwards.
2	11	34	59

Among the 59 deaths which occurred in persons aged 65 and upwards, 53 were over seventy years, 31 over eighty and 9 over ninety years. One was over a hundred years of age.

The number of deaths from Tuberculosis was eight, and is the same as last year. In seven cases the disease was of the respiratory organs. Influenza claimed four victims as against seven last year; pneumonia, three; whooping cough, one. This represents the total deaths from all forms of notifiable infectious disease. The number of deaths from cancer, 17, shows again a slight decrease as compared with the two previous years, viz., 18 and 21 respectively. There has been a drop from 28 to 19 in the number of deaths registered as due to heart disease. Cerebral hæmorrhage accounts for 12 deaths, 6 males and 6 females, against 3 females last year; a very considerable increase. One male committed suicide and three males died from violence.

Seven infants under one year, three males and four females, one of each sex being illegitimate, died during the year. This is an increase of five on last year, two of these children were premature and only lived two days.

### INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS.

The cultivation of oysters is the industry for which the town is famed and it finds occupation for a large number of the male population, but owing to its somewhat depressed condition due to excessive mortality amongst the oysters a season or so ago and the absence of a supply of young oysters, some of the fishermen have found occupation ashore.

The building trade is very active at the present time and employs a large number of men. Employment in the harbour is precarious, but a considerable barge traffic is carried on, principally with London, also a few steamers chiefly loaded with granite for the roads come to the harbour and give a certain amount of occupation. Boat building is carried on to some extent but this industry is not so thriving as formerly. There are no large factories and no obnoxious trades are carried on in the district.

Of the two schemes put in hand by the Council for the relief of unemployment, the culverting of the Stream Dyke has been completed, as far as it is possible at present. The other scheme for the improvement of Island Wall is making satisfactory progress and is giving work to a number of men who would otherwise be unemployed. Some new roads have been made and others are either in progress or scheduled for immediate construction. This road making has and is finding occupation for a considerable number of men. The Council have accepted a tender for putting in a number of new water mains and the local Gas Co. has also laid a great length of mains both in and out of the district.

## WATER SUPPLY.

The water undertaking was taken over by the Council from a private company for the sum of £47,275 in 1922. There are three pumping stations, situated at Harwich Street, Borstal Hill and Pye Alley. Since the undertaking became the Council's property many important works for maintaining the continuity of the water supply have been carried out. A reservoir with a capacity of 500,000 gallons was erected in 1923 at Borstal Hill and a 15in. boring, 600 feet deep, made at Pye Alley in 1924. This boring yields approximately 11,000 gallons per day and, together with minor improvements of the other bore at Pye Alley has augmented the supply sufficiently to render it unnecessary for cutting off the water at any time during the summer months.

In view of the unprecedented growth of the district and the extension by Provisional Order of the Council's water area, the Council are at present negotiating with an independent water company outside the district for a further augmentation of their supply. A large scheme for the provision of additional mains is in progress, the contractors being a local company, the East Kent Gas Co., who are employing a considerable amount of local labour, thus reducing the unemployment in the district.

The water contains some 20 degrees of hardness and there has been an improvement in the bacteriological standard of samples submitted to the County Bacteriological Laboratories for examination. The water frequently contains an excessive quantity of oxide of iron in suspension, which gives it a brown colour. This condition is not dangerous to health, but is objectionable in appearance, and detrimental to washing and other such industries. The two sources of this suspended matter are (i) from the water derived from the Thanet sands at Pye Alley and (ii) disturbance of the encrusted material upon interior of mains and service pipes.

## NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	1925.	1924.
Small Pox           ...   ...   ...   ...	—	—
Scarlet Fever     ...   ...   ...   ...	15	5
Diphtheria       ...   ...   ...   ...	—	2
Typhoid Fever (and Paratyphoid B)	2	—
Puerperal Fever       ...   ...   ...	1	—
Erysipelas       ...   ...   ...   ...	1	3
Pneumonia       ...   ...   ...   ...	23	26
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary       ...   ...	16	19
Tuberculosis, other forms       ...   ...	13	7



The number of cases of Scarlet Fever increased by 10 over the previous year and of these 6 were removed to the Isolation Hospital at Blean, the remainder being isolated at home.

The Blean R.D.C. provide the ambulance which consists of a Ford One-ton Van, used under ordinary circumstances for delivering coal, and upon this is placed the body of the old horse ambulance; the vehicle presents a most impressive sight!

There were no cases of Diphtheria notified during the year. Anti-Diphtheria Serum is supplied to medical practitioners by the Council.

13 Pulmonary Tuberculosis cases have been notified during the year a decrease of three compared with last year, but an increase of 6 other forms of Tuberculosis have been reported. On account of its healthy climate Whitstable still attracts a number of patients suffering from this condition and certainly for the last nine months of the year they do very well, the winds in the first quarter are a little too strong for them. Treatment is given at the Herne Bay Dispensary on the first and third Thursday in the month and many of the Whitstable patients attend.

Venereal Diseases are not frequently met with and cases are treated at Clinics held in the neighbouring towns.

The County Bacteriologist carries out examinations of swabs, blood, etc., and the results are most promptly received.

There was one case of Puerperal Fever, but no case of Poliomyelitis in the district.

## **MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.**

This centre is now in a very active condition and a considerable amount of very good work is being done, the numbers attending average from 35 to 40 per session. The number of voluntary workers is inadequate and assistance from ladies in the district would be much appreciated. The babies are regularly weighed and a record kept, and advice and instruction is given and infant food, Cod Liver Oil, Virol, etc. can be obtained on advantageous terms by the mothers. The Centre is held every Monday afternoon and the Medical Officer attends fortnightly. Nurse Masker, County Health Visitor, is now in charge of the Centre and receives great assistance from Nurse Waters and a small band of lady helpers.

## **MILK SUPPLY.**

The greater portion of the milk supply is produced outside the urban district, there being only four cowsheds within this

area. The cowsheds, dairies and milk stores are regularly inspected and in one case only, it was necessary for statutory action to be taken. Numerous samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination, one sample being infected with tubercle bacilli.

### HOUSING.

126 houses have been erected during the year, all of which have been built for sale. The Council will shortly erect 12 small houses in Hamilton Road for the purpose of alleviating overcrowding. A closing order was made in connection with one house and it was necessary to secure an Eviction Order from the Court before the premises were vacated.

The number of houses erected during the last five years are as follows:—

1920	...	8	(Council Scheme).
1921	...	43	(Council Scheme).
1922	...	32	
1923	...	71	
1924	...	141	(8 by the Council).

The Sanitary Inspector has had repairs carried out to houses in Church Road, Swanfield Road, Norfolk Street and Suffolk Street, following house-to-house inspections under the Housing (Inspection of District Regulations) 1910.

### FOOD SUPPLY.

The inspection of food is in the capable hands of the Sanitary Inspector, who is a certified meat and food inspector and the excellent work he has done under this heading will be found in his report.

### SEWERAGE.

The whole town is sewered on the combined system and all sewage from Whitstable and low lying portions of the district gravitate to the Diamond Road Pumping Station, where stereophagus pumps lift it to the top of pumping sewer in Northwood Road. The sewage from Tankerton gravitate to the Outfall Works of Swalecliffe. Preliminary treatment consists of digestion in Imhoff tanks, two in number, and the effluent finally passes through coke breeze filter beds. The outfall discharges into the sea, approx.  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from the shore. The pumping of sewage from Whitstable is not always regular and much of the sewage is therefore septic in nature.

There are only two cesspools in the district.

## **SCHOOLS.**

The town possesses four separate schools:

- (1) The Endowed Girls School, for Senior and Junior Girls under one head mistress;
- (2) The Council School for Senior and Junior Boys under two head masters;
- (3) The Westmeads Infant School; and
- (4) St. Alphege Church School for Junior Girls and Infants.

The buildings of these schools are in a satisfactory condition but the playground accommodation of the last school is not adequate. The sanitary accommodation of the schools is regularly inspected and Medical Inspections of the children is held twice every year by the Medical Inspector and the improvement noted in the children with regard to condition of teeth, cleanliness and physique is most marked.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.**

The public health staff consists of Mr. C. R. A. Martin, A.M.I.S.E., Sanitary Inspector, and a general assistant, with myself as Medical Officer of Health part-time. Mr. Martin commenced his duties here in April, 1924, and is a most capable, energetic, tactful officer, he is highly qualified, possessing amongst other diplomas the medal of the Institution of Sanitary Engineers. He has done an enormous amount of work in meat inspection, the result of which is seen in his report, and he has also devoted a great deal of time to the management of the Sewage Disposal Works at Swalecliffe, which have very greatly improved. I should like to thank him for the assistance he rendered me, especially during the months I was incapacitated by my accident.

## **CONCLUSION.**

I should like to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their kindness during the months I was laid up by my accident and at all times for their willing help and support, also to Dr. E. W. Witney, M.B., B.S.Lond., for carrying on the work during my absence.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

F. PARRIS PIPER, M.B.Lond.,

M.O.H., Whitstable U.D.C.



## CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.
All Causes ... ..	54	62
Whooping cough ... ..		1
Influenza ... ..		4
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	5	2
Other tuberculous diseases ... ..		1
Cancer, malignant disease ... ..	9	8
Diabetes ... ..		2
Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc. ... ..	6	6
Heart disease ... ..	8	11
Arterio-sclerosis ... ..	4	4
Bronchitis ... ..	2	1
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	1	2
Other respiratory diseases ... ..		1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ... ..	1	
Appendicitis and typhlitis ... ..	2	
Acute and chronic nephritis ... ..	3	4
Puerperal sepsis ... ..		1
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition ... ..		1
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth ... ..		3
Suicide ... ..	1	
Other deaths from violence ... ..	3	
Other defined diseases ... ..	9	10



**Birth-Rate, Death-Rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1925.**

	Birth-rate per 1000 Total Popula- tion.	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.								Rate per 1,000 Births.		
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under two years).	Total Deaths un- der one year
England and Wales	18.3	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.15	0.07	0.32	0.47	8.4	75
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.17	0.03	0.18	0.09	0.30	0.43	10.8	79
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000 50,000).	18.3	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.14	0.06	0.31	0.38	7.6	74
London	18.0	11.7	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.19	0.11	0.23	0.46	10.6	67
Whitstable	13.69	11.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.41	0.41	0.0	52.63

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
<b>Factories</b> ... (Including Factory Laundries)	8	—	
<b>Workshops</b> ... (Including Workshop Laundries)	45	21	
<b>Workplaces</b> ... (Other than Outworkers' premises)			
Total	53	21	—

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	11	11		
Want of ventilation	1	1		
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors	7	7		
Other nuisances				
Sanitary accommodation {insufficient unsuitable or defective not separate for sexes	2	2		
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)				
Other offences				
Total	21	21		

Whitstable Urban District Council.



ANNUAL  
REPORT

OF THE

*Sanitary Inspector,*

1925.







Health Department,

Council Offices,

Whitstable.

The the Chairman and Members of the

## WHITSTABLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present a Report of the work carried out by me; the period embraced in the Report being from January 1st, to December 31st, 1925.

1. **General.**

Number of Inspections	...	2074	}	Total	...	3291
„ „ Re-inspections	...	1217				
„ „ Notices Served—Preliminary	...	463				
		Statutory		...	138	
				Total	—	601
„ „ Nuisances, etc., abated by persons responsible (including those outstanding at the end of 1924)	...	...				452
„ „ Nuisances, etc., abated by Council in default	...	...		...	...	37
„ „ Complaints received	...	...		...	...	129

2. **Housing Nuisances.**

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	112
Eaves, gutters and rain water pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	47
Rain water pipes disconnected from drain	...	...	...	...	...	6
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	59
Doors and Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	97
Dirty rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	84
Verminous houses cleansed by tenants	...	...	...	...	...	12
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	36
Coppers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	35
Stoves repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	35
Brickwork repaired	...	...	...	...	...	41
Weatherboarding repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	13
Outbuildings rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	8
Yards paved	...	...	...	...	...	18

Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous repairs	...	...	...	...	39
<b>3. Drains, W.C.'s, Ashpits, etc.</b>					
Drains relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	70
,, ventilated	...	...	...	...	15
,, cleared	...	...	...	...	40
,, tested	...	...	...	...	62
W.C's rebuilt	...	...	...	...	3
,, repaired and provided with flushing apparatus					25
Inspection chambers built	...	...	...	...	24
Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	20
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	326
<b>4. Bakehouses.</b>					
Number on Register	...	...	...	...	12
,, of Inspections	...	...	...	...	27
,, ,, Defects found	...	...	...	...	10
,, ,, remedied	...	...	...	...	8
<b>5. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.</b>					
Number of Cowkeepers on Register	...	...	...	...	4
,, ,, Retail Purveyors on Register	...	...	...	...	15
,, ,, Inspections	...	...	...	...	28
,, ,, Defects found	...	...	...	...	13
,, ,, remedied	...	...	...	...	9
<b>6. Slaughterhouses.</b>					
Number of Registered Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	4
,, ,, Licensed	...	...	...	...	4
,, ,, Inspections	...	...	...	...	1372
,, ,, Defects found	...	...	...	...	12
,, ,, remedied	...	...	...	...	12
<b>7. Factories and Workshops.</b>					
Number of Workshops on Register	...	...	...	...	60
,, ,, Inspections	...	...	...	...	53
,, ,, Defects found	...	...	...	...	10
,, ,, remedied	...	...	...	...	10
,, ,, Workrooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	11
<b>8. Water Supplies.</b>					
Number of Samples taken for analysis	...	...	...	...	5
,, ,, reported unfit	...	...	...	...	1
,, ,, Houses connected to mains during year					140

9. **Various.**

Inspections of Butchers, Shops and Food Stores ...	99
,, ,, Fish, Fruit, Ice Cream, etc., Shops	22
,, ,, Van Dwellings ... ..	17
,, ,, Offensive Trades ... ..	16
,, ,, Schools ... ..	6
Visits to works in progress ... ..	129
Offensive accumulations removed ... ..	18
Removal of animals improperly kept ... ..	8

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.**

Number of Visits to Infected Houses ... ..	21
,, ,, Houses disinfected following Scarlet Fever 12	54
,, ,, ,, ,, Typhoid Fever 3	
,, ,, ,, ,, Dysentery 1	
,, ,, ,, ,, Diphtheria —	
,, ,, ,, ,, Tuberculosis 21	
,, ,, ,, ,, Cancer 8	
,, ,, ,, ,, Puerpural Fever 1	
,, ,, ,, ,, Miscellaneous Infections 8	
,, ,, Articles disinfected in Steam Disinfector ...	358

The Steam Disinfector, which is a Washington Lyons type, is in good condition and contained in a detached building on Sea Wall. It has been kept fairly busy throughout the year.

**FOOD SUPPLY.**

The following tables shew the quantity of unsound food condemned by me and the classification of diseases in carcasses and organs:

**Table I.**

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Beef (English and Foreign) ...		2	0	11
Veal ... ..			1	22
Mutton ... ..			2	23
Pork ... ..		9	0	16
Organs ... ..	1	6	1	26
Fish ... ..		1	0	10
Miscellaneous ... ..			1	14
	—	—	—	—
	2	0	1	10
	—	—	—	—

TABLE II.  
**Carcases.**

DISEASE.			Beasts.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	
Tuberculosis	...	...	—	—	—	4	
Pyæmia	...	...	—	1	—	—	
Acute Peritonitis	...	...	—	—	—	3	
Parturient Fever	...	...	—	—	1	—	
						—	
TOTAL	...	...	—	1	1	7	—9



TABLE III.

Organs.

DISEASE.	Heads.	Tongues.	Lungs.	Hearts.	Livers.	Spleens.	Gauls.	Mesenteries.	Stomachs.	Kidneys.	WEIGHTS.			
											Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Tuberculosis	+1	41	35	24	26	13	9	34	31	12	11		1	27
Actinomycosis or Actinobacilosis	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				17
Pyæmia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2				14
Highly Fevered	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	6			2	6
Lipoma.	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—				7
Melanosis	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—				5
Parturient Fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2			2	15
Pneumonia	—	—	42	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				21
Pleurisy	—	—	46	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			3	15
Pericarditis	—	—	—	47	—	—	—	—	—	—			1	25
Peritonitis	—	—	—	—	15	—	4	6	15	—	2		3	19
Cirrhosis	—	—	—	—	37	—	—	—	—	—	1		2	22
Necrosis	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—				25
Hæmorrhages	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—			2	+
Pus Formations	—	—	6	1	6	—	1	—	—	—				+
Glandular Suppuration	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				13
Partial Asphyxiation	—	—	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			3	8
Echinocicci	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—				2
Strongylosis	—	—	3	—	7	—	—	—	—	—			3	17
Pentastomi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—			2	+
Distoma Hepaticum	—	—	—	—	63	—	—	—	—	—	4			8
TOTALS.	49	49	142	79	172	25	22	49	53	24	1	6	1	26

It will be noticed that throughout the year it has not been necessary to condemn a single carcase of beef. I desire to draw attention to the table classifying the affections and also weights of organs condemned. The number of livers, mostly bovine, condemned for liver fluke is 63, and the number for Cirrhosis, 37; the total number condemned for all purposes being 172. The table shews the relative extent to which organs were affected with tuberculosis and incidently indicates the efficiency of meat inspection in this town and may indeed, be regarded as the index of efficiency. During the year, I found a sheep affected with tuberculosis, the lesions, which were confined to the lymphatic glands of the head and other organs, were strongly calcified. Tuberculosis in sheep is an extremely rare occurrence, and the presence of the disease in this one may possibly be explained by the fact that it had been made a pet of when a lamb. It is interesting to note that the percentages of animals affected with tuberculosis were as follows:—

19 beasts,	making a percentage of	9.22
1 sheep,	„ „ „	0.078
50 pigs,	„ „ „	2.64

The following table shews the number of animals inspected by me during the year and constitutes, as near as practicable, 100% of all animals killed:—

Beasts	...	...	...	...	...	206
Calves	...	...	...	...	...	308
Sheep	...	...	...	...	...	1323
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	1898
Total						3835

To maintain this state of efficiency calls for many personal sacrifices of leisure time on the part of your Inspector and in this respect, it may be interesting to point out that I have during 1925 devoted 127 evenings, i.e., after normal office hours, to meat inspection.

The meat purveyed in the district is very good and all beasts and pigs are insured in the Isle of Thanet Butchers' Insurance Society, which I persuaded all the butchers to join, with resulting compensation to the butcher upon any seizure. 130 certificates for compensation were issued and no charge made for same.

**Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.** It is my duty to report on the working of these Regulations, since their inception on April 1st, 1925. Thanks to the amicable relations which have sustained between the butchers and myself, I have had very little difficulty with the notices of slaughter or the

leaving of carcases and offals for my inspection. The only fault to find with the slaughtering notices clauses of the Regulations is that oral notice is permissible.

With regard to the clauses for prevention of contamination to meat, the only one which has caused any difficulty is Article 20 (5) (a) relating to the placing of meat in shops to prevent mud, filth and other contaminating substances being splashed or blown thereon. The line which I advised the Council to take is that it is impossible to prevent dust, etc., from being blown on to the meat in butchers' shops unless effectively screened by means of a window and, with the slight modifications necessary in consequence of the Ministry of Health's Circular No. 604, this attitude has been adhered to. Before the issue of this Circular, I was able to persuade three butchers to improve their premises by inserting plate glass windows. There are, in addition, ten other meat shops in the town, and of these, one has a plate glass window and the others, glass shutters.

Although the advent of the Meat Regulations was met with much opposition on the part of butchers, there is now apparent a tendency to settle down and work amicably with Inspectors, the butchers' grievance now being, not against the enforcement of the Regulations, but against the lack of uniformity among Local Authorities.

## **SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND SLAUGHTERING.**

There are eight slaughterhouses in the district, four of which are licensed annually, and four registered. Two of the registered slaughterhouses are quite unsuitable as regards structure and position, and all of the premises are within close proximity to dwelling houses. The provision of an abattoir upon any of the vacant land adjoining the Goods Station would be an investment as regards public health and prevent the driving of animals through the centre of the town to the different slaughterhouses, such as occurs on market days at present.

The Byelaws making the shooting of animals by means of a mechanically operated instrument compulsory were approved by the Ministry of Health and come into operation during June, 1925. The subject was the cause of deputations of local and outside butchers to the Council both before and after the Ministry's approval of the byelaws. The byelaws were adopted by the Council on my recommendation to prevent cruelty to animals, which was occurring in some of the slaughterhouses in the town, and replace the obsolete existing byelaws, and it is with some satisfaction that I report the use of the mechanically operated instrument to be a success. I had previously had some years of experience of the shooting of animals for human food, but most



of the local butchers were not acquainted with this means of slaughter and were guided principally by statements made by their fellow-traders in other parts of the locality, whose desire, I understand, was to keep this method of slaughter out of this part of the county. The butchers are, however, quite satisfied with mechanically operated instruments. The types in use are the Temple and Captive Bolt Killers.

The only difficulty which has been experienced is to make the butchers keep their guns clean and oiled.

## HOUSING.

**Table IV.**

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	126
(b) With State Assistance under Housing Acts:—							
(i) By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(ii) By private persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	96

### 1. Unfit Dwelling Houses :

Inspection :

(i) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	180
(ii) No. of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	102
(iii) No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	3
(iv) No. of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to in iii.), found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	142

### 2. Remedy of defects without Service of Formal Notices.

(i) No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority's officers	...	...	...	...	...	90
(ii) No. of dwelling houses where works were in progress at end of 1925	...	...	...	...	...	16



### 3. Action under Statutory Powers.

#### A. Proceedings under S. 3, Housing Act, 1925 (and S. 28, H.T.P. Etc., Act, 1919).

(i) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	22
(ii) No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices:—	
(a) By owners ... ..	19
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ..	2
(iii) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of their intention to close ... ..	Nil

#### B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(i) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	21
(ii) No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners ... ..	16
(b) By local authority ... ..	Nil

#### C. Proceedings under Section 17, Housing, Town Planning, Etc. Act, 1909.

(i) No. of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... ..	1
(ii) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	1
(iii) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit ...	Nil

No Demolition Orders were made and no action taken under the new Housing Act, 1925, with regard to Closing Orders, etc. Three unfit houses were demolished voluntarily.

Reference to paragraphs 2 and 3 on page 1 of my Report will show the amount of work executed under this heading and although difficulty was experienced in the case of many working class dwellings in getting repairs carried out, all notices which were outstanding at the end of 1924 have been complied with, except for five and these have been held in abeyance in accordance with the Council's instructions. The number of outstand-

ing notices is, at end of 1925, much less than at the end of the previous year.

The district is fortunate in not possessing any slum areas, but there are numerous houses which are totally unfit for human habitation and a considerable number which have, during the War and the trying times since, been allowed to get into a state of bad repair. These working class areas are potential slums and I would venture to suggest to those who fail to realise the necessity for putting these houses into a reasonable state of repair that it is futile to develop the extremities of the town with a view to making a health resort of it when there are slums germinating in its midst.

Following a report presented with regard to overcrowding in the district, the Council have decided to erect twelve working class houses of the type which the district badly needs.

A schedule of unfit houses prepared in 1920 shewed that there were at the time 27 houses unfit for human habitation. Of these, one was closed by the Council in 1925, four were voluntarily closed and demolished in 1924 and two in 1921. Seven others have been repaired and reconstructed to render them fit for human habitation, thus leaving 13 on the schedule.

## **HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.**

Consequent upon the growth of the district, each of the three areas which are visited twice weekly for the purpose of house refuse collection have been divided into four daily rounds, instead of three as heretofore. In addition; an arrangement was made at the beginning of the year for the Contractor to collect trade refuse independently of the house refuse collection, the tradesmen paying a small charge for the collection. These improvements have obviated the overloading of refuse waggons.

The Contract price for the year was £777, to which must be added £293 for the provision of labour, disinfectants, etc. Approximately 2,200 tons of house refuse were collected during the year and the cost per ton was therefore 9s. 9d. During the first part of the year the dump was at Pean Hill, which was a satisfactory site and to the approval of the Blean Authorities. Subsequently, the dump was removed to Bogshole, and regarding this site several complaints were received.

I find upon looking through previous Annual Reports that better and more hygienic methods for collection and disposal of house refuse were advocated some fifteen years ago. Special reports have from time to time been presented suggesting new methods, but the old methods have been maintained. I have now been directed by the Council to prepare a report upon the subject.



The work of providing houses with proper galvanized iron dustbins in lieu of baskets, tubs and other insanitary receptacles, proceeds. A total of 267 preliminary and 96 Statutory notices under Section 36, Public Health Act, 1875, were served upon owners, and, with those notices outstanding at the end of 1924, 326 dustbins were provided as a consequence of such action. It was necessary for the Council to supply 34 dustbins in default of owners. When the work was commenced in the summer of 1924, I estimated that there were 1,500 houses without proper dustbins. Since that time 632 dustbins have been provided, as a consequence of notices served, thus approximately 900 houses still remain without proper receptacles.

### SEWAGE WORKS DISPOSAL.

These works are under my supervision. The repairs carried out to the Imhoff Tanks in 1924 have resulted in a more satisfactory preliminary treatment of sewage in these tanks. Four of the Rotary Sprinklers have been repaired and put into efficient working order during this year.

The final effluent is reported by the County Analyst as being satisfactory and fit for discharge into the sea, but the sewage pumped to the works from Whitstable is often black in colour, possesses an offensive odour and is septic in nature.

### PORT SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Table V.

Vessels.		No. Inspected.	No. Defective.	No. of Notices Served.
Foreign	Steam	3	—	—
	Motor	—	—	—
	Sail	1	—	—
		4	—	—
Coastal	Steam	15	2	2
	Motor	1	—	—
	Sail	2	1	1
		18	3	3
Totals		22	3	3

The boats entering the harbour have, taken on the whole, been found fairly clean and most notices served have been in respect of dirty fore-castle quarters and sanitary accommodation.

The harbour warehouses, stores, stables, quay walls, etc., have from time to time been dressed with poison for the destruction of rats, also numerous barges and steamships, with satisfactory results.

### **RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1920.**

A total of 111 premises (exclusive of the harbour) were dressed with poison during the year. Co-operative action among occupiers and owners of warehouses, stores, shipyards, workshops, etc., on the foreshore at West Beach was arranged with satisfactory results. The occupiers of infested premises have been circularised from time to time and information given as to the best methods to be adopted, etc., for the destruction of rats.

The Ministry of Agriculture's film "Rat Menace" was obtained and shewn at a local cinema for one week, commencing November 9th, 1925, and in addition, instructive articles inserted in local newspapers.

### **MOSQUITO CAMPAIGN.**

Owing to the prevalence of mosquitos in the neighbourhood of the Seasalter Golf Course during the summer of 1924, the whole of the surface of stagnant water in the dykes on this course, and also the banks of same, were, during the spring of this year, sprayed with oil to destroy mosquito larvae. The Steps taken were a success and arrangements will be made in the coming year to spray all dykes, etc., in the district.

### **LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.**

**Table VI.**

Offence.	Enactment.	Result.
Tenant refusing to quit premises, in respect of which Closing Order was made.	Section 17, Housing, Town Planning, Etc. Act, 1909.	Eviction Order for 28 days.
Defective Drain.	Section 94, Public Health Act, 1875.	Work done. Case withdrawn.

**CONCLUSION.**

In concluding, this, my Second Annual Report as your Sanitary Inspector, I beg to tender my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council, Dr. Piper and all others who, by their co-operation and support, have rendered the somewhat difficult duties which I have to perform, a little pleasanter and easier of execution.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES R. A. MARTIN,

A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A.







